

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

Further inquiries: (716)843-5814

138 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

PRESS RELEASE

May 10, 2004

Re: **UNITED STATES V. WILLIAM BLOOMFIELD**

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced that William Bloomfield, 38, of Grand Island, pled guilty today in U.S. District Court to using the Internet in an attempt to persuade a minor to engage in sex. Mr. Bloomfield's guilty plea was presented to U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara.

Assistant United States Attorney Paul J. Campana said Mr. Bloomfield's arrest last June 4 and today's conviction were the result of an FBI Internet sting. An FBI Agent, assuming the identity of a 13-year-old girl on the Internet, was contacted by Bloomfield. Bloomfield then arranged a meeting which, according to Instant Messages he exchanged with the undercover agent last June 3 and 4, he believed would result in a tryst with a young girl. Instead, Bloomfield was arrested by the FBI on the morning of June 4, when he appeared at a shopping plaza, as pre-arranged in his Instant Messages. When arrested, Bloomfield admitted to FBI Agents that he had stopped to buy condoms just prior to arriving at the plaza.

Bloomfield faces a maximum 30-year prison term under federal statutes that criminalize the use of the Internet for the sexual exploitation of children. Judge Arcara will impose sentence August 19, 2004, at 12:30 p.m.

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